

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Grant Awards – 2007



The John Osterman Gas Station in Peach Springs, Arizona is constructed in a vernacular “house with canopy” style. It is distinguished by its large garage and stone-faceted concrete block construction.

Arizona

Project: John Osterman Gas Station Rehabilitation
Recipient: Hualapai Tribal Nation
Amount: \$28,000 NPS, \$28,000 match

Built by a Swedish immigrant in 1929, this station served gas continuously on Route 66 in Peach Springs (on Hualapai Tribal land) until its recent closure. The Hualapai Tribe plans to rehabilitate the building and reestablish fuel service, making it one of few historic Route 66 stations to still supply fuel. Plans also include using the large garage as a workshop and retail venue for Hualapai artisans. Grant funds will assist with the preparation of a condition assessment and preservation plan, as well as with immediate stabilization needs. The building was recently nominated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



An icon on Route 66, the Wigwam Motel in Holbrook, Arizona retains a high degree of historic integrity, including many of its interior furnishings.

Project: Wigwam Motel Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,685 NPS, \$10,685 match

The Wigwam Motel was built in Holbrook in 1950, and is owned and operated by the family of the original owner. The motel is one of seven wigwam villages of its kind built in the US between the 1930s and 1950s. Three of the seven remain today, two of which are located on Route 66. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003, the Holbrook wigwams remain in operation, and are a popular destination for travelers on Route 66. The grant will assist with the repair and upgrading of the original plumbing system, and with repairs to the exterior concrete wall bases.



The small town of Amboy is a pristine representative of Route 66's roadside architecture and history.

California

Project: Amboy Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$30,000 NPS, \$30,000 match

Amboy is a small town in the California Mojave Desert that was founded in the 1800s by mining and railroad interests. In the 1930s it became a key desert landmark for Route 66 travelers needing gas, food and lodging. When it was bypassed by the interstate in the 1970s, Amboy became a virtual ghost town. However, many important buildings remain, including Roy's café, motel and gas station. With a caretaker onsite, Amboy continues to attract hundreds of visitors each year. The owner of the town has immediate plans to upgrade utilities and restore gasoline service. Motel and food service may also be restored in the future. Grant funds will assist with the important first steps of developing a preservation plan for select buildings in Amboy.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2007



The Ariston Café is distinct for its curved parapet and finely crafted brick-work. The interior is remarkably unaltered since the historic period of Route 66.

Illinois

Project: Ariston Café Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$13,000 NPS, \$13,000 match

Originally established in Carlinville, the Ariston Café was moved to Litchfield, Illinois in 1935 to be near the burgeoning traffic of Route 66. The café has been a dining destination on the road ever since, and remains in the care of its original founding family. The café retains many of its historic details, including light fixtures, hat racks, and art-deco inspired wood booths and wall cabinetry. The café was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. Grant funds will assist with the preparation of a long-term preservation plan and new roof.



The 1932 Tudor-Revival station is an excellent example of an independent service station from the historic period of Route 66.

Project: Sprague Super Service Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$20,000 NPS, \$20,000 match

This commanding, two-story Tudor-Revival style building was built in 1932 in Normal, Illinois to address increasing traveler needs on Route 66. The building housed a café, gas station and garage on the first floor, while the upstairs served as housing for the station attendant. Several different café and auto-related businesses utilized the building until 1976, when it ceased auto-related service. A new owner has nominated the property for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Rehabilitation plans include an information center, diner/soda fountain, bed and breakfast, and event space. Grant funds will assist with urgent needs including a condition assessment and new roof.



Jim's Restaurant in Vinita, Oklahoma as it appeared ca. 1953. Postcards provide valuable information for historic preservation, research and educational projects.

Project: Curt Teich Postcard Collection Archive
Recipient: Lake County Discovery Museum
Amount: \$8,000 NPS, \$8,000 match

The Curt Teich Postcard Archive, part of the Lake County Discovery Museum, is recognized throughout the world as the largest public collection of postcards and related materials. It includes one of the nation's largest collections of Route 66, Lincoln Highway and other travel-related images. The archive includes production files, such as original photographs, letters from property owners, and pieces of tile and carpet that were used by the Curt Teich art department for colorizing the postcards. These materials are rich and unique sources of primary documents for historians, preservationists, and enthusiasts. Grant funds will assist with scanning and cataloguing approximately 2,300 images, which will be made available to the public via the Digital Past website at www.digitalpast.org.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2007



The Blue Swallow Motel continues to operate as a traditional mom and pop owned and operated motel on Route 66.

New Mexico

Project: Blue Swallow Motel Rehabilitation
Recipient: New Mexico Route 66 Association
Amount: \$8,000 NPS, \$8,000 match

Opened in 1942 in Tucumcari, the Blue Swallow Motel consists of an L-shaped floor plan with 14 units, an office and manager's residence. The motel maintains its modest historic appearance and is characterized by unique details including seashell impressions in the exterior stucco walls; garage units for each room; ornamental neon in the shape of swallows; and an eye-catching neon sign. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, the motel is a popular destination on Route 66. In 2006 however, the motel suffered substantial damage from severe storms. Grant funds will assist with the repair of broken windows in the motel lobby, and with neon on the façades and eaves of the buildings.



The Santo Domingo Trading Post is located on Santo Domingo tribal land, and is a rich example of regional architecture and the early promotion of tourism on Route 66.

Project: Santo Domingo Trading Post Emergency Stabilization
Recipient: Cornerstones Community Foundation
Amount: \$17,000 NPS, \$17,000 match

The Santo Domingo Trading Post was constructed in 1922 and served a variety of clientele including the Santo Domingo tribe and motorists traveling the Santa Fe-Albuquerque highway, which passed in front of it. In 1926, the highway became the newly commissioned Route 66. The trading post remained in operation as a mercantile and gas station until 1995, and was listed on the National Register of historic Places in 1998. In the early 2000s, a fire destroyed the roof and several walls. However, 85% of the structure remains standing and is salvageable. Now owned by the Santo Domingo Tribe, there is interest in rehabilitating the building for potential use as trading post and/or interpretive center. On behalf of the Tribe, Cornerstones Community Foundation will administer grant funds to assist with emergency planning and stabilization of the structure.



The Triangle Motel features solid construction with Streamline Moderne lines. Each sleeping unit consists of two large rooms with an adjacent garage.

Texas

Project: Triangle Motel Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$26,056 NPS, \$26,056 match

Built in the 1940s, the Triangle Motel in Amarillo, Texas was one of the first motels westbound travelers would see as they entered the city. Designed with Streamline Moderne architectural lines, the motel consists of ten sleeping units of unusually large size. Closed in the 1970s, the motel has been neglected and used for storage for the past 25 years. New caretakers have stepped in to save the pristine property, which is condemned for demolition, and restore it to operating condition. Grant funds will provide for the preparation of a preservation plan and implementation of emergency stabilization needs. The building is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2007



Educating our youth about the history and significance of Route 66 is essential to preserving it for future generations.

Other

Project: Route 66 Curriculum Development
Recipient: Central Connecticut State University
Amount: \$2,775 NPS, \$2,775 match

A crucial element of preserving Route 66 is safeguarding the collective knowledge of the history, values and experiences associated with the highway. Equally important is passing this information on to the next generation of caretakers – our youth. This project proposes to develop a curriculum resource guide for university audiences, to complement the growing elementary, middle and high school curriculums that have been developed in recent years. The guide will be designed for adaptive use by a variety of disciplines such as geography, history, anthropology, sociology, public history, urban studies and business. It will be designed for use both in a classroom setting and in the field while traveling on Route 66.